approach to the problem of determining the volume of the library job market and the salaries received by librarians. The publication's appeal may be somewhat limited, but it contributes favorably with the existing literature in the field.

JILL GOLRICK
Tucson, Arizona

REFERENCES

1. Morris LR. The rise and fall of the library job market. Am Libr 1981;12(9):557–8.
2. Rayman R. Employment opportunities for academic libraries in the 1970s: an analysis of the past decade. Coll Res Libr 1981;42(2):229–34.

MILES, WYNDHAM D. *A History of the National Library of Medicine: The Nation's Treasury of Medical Knowledge.* Bethesda, Md: National Library of Medicine, 1982. viii, 531 p. $14.00.

A more comprehensive, detailed, carefully prepared, fully documented, illustrated, and indexed one-volume history is hard to imagine. The author is a chemist and a historian of science, and has long been a research historian at the National Library of Medicine. It was an extremely complicated story he has to tell. As it neared completion, he sent material to persons he thought likely to detect errors or fill in details; comparison of the published book with these drafts shows that much revising was done before the book went to press.

There are more than a hundred illustrations. There are photographs of most of the library's successive residences: the Riggs Bank; Ford's Theatre; the red brick building on the Mall, which also housed the Army Medical Museum and the Army Medical School for many years, and which was finally razed to make room for the Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; and, finally, the present building in Bethesda.

The book is so packed with detail that it is likely to serve much oftener as a work of reference for scholars who seek answers to particular questions than as a book to be read straight through. For those who do begin a consecutive reading and get lost, there is a "Selected Chronology" that will help them recover their bearings. For readers who feel the need of a running jump into Miles' history, I recommend reading first the most detailed and most readable previous account, that by Dorothy M. Schullian and Frank B. Rogers published in 1958 in the *Library Quarterly.* This was undocu-

mented because Dr. Schullian was already at work on an "extensive and fully documented" history intended "for the Library's 125th anniversary in 1961." But that proved far too short a deadline, and in that year, with the book still far from finished, she left the library to become curator of the history of science collections at Cornell University.

Readers who spent time serving the NLM may miss accounts of particular episodes in which they were involved. My own years were 1942 through 1946 at what was known as the Cleveland Branch that later became the History of Medicine Division at the NLM. During World War II, the Army Medical Library building was overcrowded and there was concern that Washington might be bombed. To ensure the safety of irreplacable historical volumes, more remote space was found on the third floor of the Cleveland Medical Library's new building. I find good accounts of the leadership of Thomas E. Keyes and of the work of Jean Eschmann and his binding studio in what we called "the Cleveland restoration." I find a brief mention of the 400th anniversary of the *Fabrica* and of our exhibit of the works of Vesalius, but none of the Vesalius issue of the *Bulletin,* or of the considerable contribution to the biography of Vesalius in a subsequent issue, based on references to him in English state papers. (Indeed, the *Bulletin* seems a relatively neglected source for the history of the NLM in general.) It was the Cleveland Medical Library's outstanding collection of books from the library of the renaissance physician "Nicolaus Pol Doctor 1494," and the discovery in the Cleveland Branch's manuscript collection of a manuscript of Pol's on the guaiac treatment for syphilis, that led to the publication of *Nicolaus Pol Doctor 1494* to mark the semicentennial of the Cleveland Medical Library Association. It seemed fitting to the staff of the Cleveland Branch that we should assist in the preparation of a volume, one of whose several features was a catalog of the books and manuscripts known to have been included in the private library of a renaissance physician.

But, on reflection, I and other readers who miss episodes in which we were involved will find it difficult to say what other episodes should have been omitted or abridged to make room for them, and will conclude by thanking Miles for what he has given us.

As a philosopher by profession, I thank him for something he has given us that, so far as I can tell, was not part of the book's design. At every stage, from the Surgeon General's library to the NLM, this has been and remains an institution within

468

Bull. Med. Libr. Assoc. 71(4) October 1983

institutions; the book turns out, therefore, to be an excellent source of case material for the historical, sociological, economic, political, and even philosophical study of institutions.

MAX H. FISCH
Indianapolis, Indiana

DODD, SUE A. *Cataloging Machine-Readable Data Files: An Interpretative Manual.* Chicago: American Library Association, 1982. 247 p. $35.00.

When the second edition of *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules* (AACR2) was published in 1978, several chapters were either omitted or included only in abbreviated form because they dealt with issues that had no international guidelines. "Machine-readable data files" (MRDF) is one of these very short chapters. The problems of cataloging MRDFs have been most apparent in social-science and public libraries, where large data files and the recent influx of computer games and microcomputer software make bibliographic control especially important. The Matheson report points to the need for MRDF cataloging in health sciences libraries as part of the shift to information management. Manuals published by the American Library Association should serve as authoritative tools for tackling this new and complex format.

Dodd's book is well organized, touches on all the difficulties of cataloging MRDFs, and offers a clear set of procedures based on her experience in the field. Few reviewers could honestly claim to be delighted to evaluate almost 250 pages of text describing cataloging details, intricacies, and rationale. However, Dodd has prepared a manual that reads well, avoids the use of complex sentences and the ponderous tone that affects so many cataloging texts. Examples and illustrations are plentiful and wisely selected.

The preface states "that this is not a manual on how to catalog"; readers are expected to have an understanding of current cataloging rules. Five objectives are set out and met in the subsequent chapters. The book contains three major sections: the definition of MRDFs; the data processing environment in which they operate; and file content versus documentation. As a quick overview the first section is adequate, although necessarily simplified.

Part 2 focuses on the ninth chapter of AACR2, giving interpretations and examples for applying rules to MRDFs, and serves as the heart of the text. A lengthy chapter follows AACR2 step by step,

with comments on Library of Congress (LC) policy interpretation and Dodd's own interpretation as well as her direct suggestions for applying the rules. The chapter includes lists of important considerations that a cataloger must make when establishing the description of such difficult elements as date or edition. Forty-five pages of examples illustrate the cataloging of various types of MRDFs.

Part 3 presents guidelines for bibliographic conventions to facilitate control of MRDF, and is meant for producers and distributors of such files. Dodd also tells how to keep descriptive records at multiple levels for different purposes. The book concludes with four appendices, bibliographic notes, a useful glossary of data processing terminology, and an index.

As this review goes to press, discussions are expected to continue at the annual meeting of the American Library Association, where a task force will recommend full guidelines for the cataloging of microcomputer software. Acceptance of the task force's proposals is uncertain, but the LC is expected to consider them and issue some definitive policies in a fall 1983 issue of the *Cataloging Service Bulletin.* The LC's stand will determine cataloging policy in almost all libraries that must deal with MRDFs.

Where does that leave Dodd's book? Given the paucity of instructions for cataloging MRDFs, her manual is a welcome guide and the suggested treatment for data files and for software that runs on mainframe computers will likely be followed in developing national standards. The description of microcomputer software appears less reliable, however, as the LC may prefer a different approach. Catalogers would be wise to think twice before implementing Dodd's advice on microcomputer software lest they be forced to recatalog under new interpretations. Like most forerunners, Dodd has written a book that meets a definite need, but its long-term usefulness depends on the LC's policy decisions and dissemination of future guidelines and texts.

RICK B. FORSMAN
Birmingham, Alabama

MATTHEWS, JOSEPH R. *Public Access to Online Catalogs: A Planning Guide for Managers.* Weston, Ct: Online, Inc., 1982. 345 p. $28.50.

The public access on-line catalog is the most recent appearance in libraries of the problem of human-computer interface. There is a need for